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1947

E

E 8092

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PALESTINE

3 SEP

Registry Number

E8092/8092/31

FROM

70.

No.

Minute

Dated

24 Geneva.

Received in Registry

Aug 26
Sept 3.

Disposal of British Offices.
Refer McFelloray letter n° 21 of Aug 21,
re disposal of British Offices,
Genev comment on same.

W.S.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

References.

HB. 5/9

(Print.)

61951

(How disposed of.)

74, Geneva.
1536.
26 Aug
8/ Droppend Launch.
G.O.
2 boxes sent 1/9.

P T O

(Action completed.)

G. C. 16/9

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

8959

32003 F.O.P

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Reference: - FO 371 / 61951

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Ed, New York.
3/63
Sept 25
of. Waltham
P.O.
Sept. 26

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References:-

FO 371 / 61951

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3148 Wt. 26469/137 50m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry
No. 7

Top Secret
Secret.
Confidential
Restricted.
Open

Draft.
UN Delegation
Geneva

Telegram.
No. *1536*
(Date) *Aug 26*

Repeat to :—

~~En Clair.~~
~~Coder.~~
Cypher.

Distribution :—
Files

Copies to :—
Mr Prufford Smith
C. A.

E 8092

F. O.,

3 SEP 26/8

194

OUT FILE

Despatched M.

Immediate

Secret

[Text from A to B on attached sheet]

RLG
26/8

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FO

371 / 61951

F

SECRET

Cypher/OTP

FILES

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO GENEVA (UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION)

No. 1536

D. 3.25 p.m. 26th August, 1947

26th August, 1947

u u u u u

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Following for MacGillivray from Trafford Smith.

[Begins]

Your letter reference No. 21 of the 21st August. Disposal of British officers.

We agree generally with the line you have taken subject to the following comments:-

Contract officers. Presumably the contracts already contain the normal provision of 3 months' notice or 1 month's pay in lieu.

Your paragraph 2. Unified Service officers. Absorption in other Colonies may be difficult. It is not merely a question of the type of post but also of the seniority of the officers. It will probably prove difficult to transfer Senior Administrative and Judicial officers. Every effort would be made to absorb them, but the extent to which it would be practicable requires detailed consideration. It seems desirable that the Committee should realise that likelihood of transfer is not an alternative to compensation.

Special compensation on the lines of that provided by the Donoughmore and Soulbury Commissions in Ceylon would be necessary, i.e. terms more favourable than abolition of office terms in the Palestine Pensions Ordinance. (Incidentally, the first sentence of your paragraph 3 (1) is not quite accurate. Abolition of office terms under the Ordinance give an addition over and above pension earned by length of service, but subject to the condition that in no case can the officer get more than the normal pension earned on reaching the age limit).

Your paragraph 3 (2). The scheme adopted in the case of Indian officers was for special gratuity in addition to pension earned by length of service. This precedent would not (repeat not) be followed.

Your paragraph 4. The fact that some officers are liable to compulsory transfer would not exclude them

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(2)

from option for special compensation benefits, i.e. they could either accept transfer offered or retire with compensation as they choose.

Your paragraph 5. Special arrangements would also be necessary for Police other ranks, for whom there is little or no prospect of absorption in other Colonies. Compensation terms similar to, if not identical with those for other British officers would no doubt be necessary. [Ends].

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Registry No. E 8092/8092/31

OUT FILE

25/9
3 0 p.m.

Despatched

~~MOST IMMEDIATE~~
~~SECRET~~

Draft.
Sir A. Cadogan
New York ✓

Telegram.

~~MOST IMMEDIATE~~
~~SECRET~~

Following for Martin from
Madison Colonial office.
Following is text of telegram
sent to Gurney on future
of British officers in
Palestine. Begins.

CIPHER

3163 ✓
Sep 25th

Dept. M. 1

Copied to
Colonial office:
Mr. Morrison

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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3165
Sep 25th

Dept. M. 1

1. It is thought that it will be desirable, as soon as the British attitude on the Palestine question is made clear at the United Nations Assembly, to issue an announcement to the Palestine Civil Service with the object of reassuring them that their interests will be adequately safeguarded in the event of constitutional changes. The High Commissioner has been consulted and agrees. Such an announcement would necessarily have to be in very general terms until the actual conditions to be met are known and until compensation benefits to be granted have been worked out in detail, but it is suggested that the following points should be made:-

(a) Every effort will be made to absorb expatriate officers serving in permanent appointments by their voluntary transfer to suitable posts elsewhere in the Colonial Service.

(b) Expatriate officers serving in permanent appointments whom it is not possible to absorb elsewhere or who do not wish to accept transfer will be permitted to retire with suitable compensation for loss of office.

(c) Steps will be taken to secure the rights of non-expatriate officers to retiring benefits earned under the Pensions and Provident Fund Ordinances. Further consideration of the position of non-expatriate officers must necessarily await clarification of the constitutional arrangements which would replace the British administration on its withdrawal.

(d) British police whose normal retiring benefits are provided under the Police Ordinance will be granted enhanced benefits on premature termination of service.

(e) The question of the terms to be granted under (b) and (d) is now under active consideration.

2. Subject to any comments you may wish to make I suggest that you should issue an announcement on the above lines at the appropriate moment, which might be about twenty-four hours after our attitude has been made clear at New York.

Ends
J.D. Sept. 25

Copied to
Colonial Office:
Mr. Robinson

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Cypher/OTF

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

(To United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)*

No. 3163

September 25th, 1947. D. 3.00 p.m. September 25th, 1947.

SSSSS

MOST IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Following for Martin from Mathieson Colonial Office.

Following is text of telegram sent to Gurney on future of British officers in Palestine.

[Begins]

1. It is thought that it will be desirable, as soon as the British attitude on the Palestine question is made clear at the United Nations Assembly, to issue an announcement to the Palestine Civil Service with the object of reassuring them that their interests will be adequately safeguarded in the event of constitutional changes. The High Commissioner has been consulted and agrees. Such an announcement would necessarily have to be in very general terms until the actual conditions to be met are known and until compensation benefits to be granted have been worked out in detail, but it is suggested that the following points should be made:-

(a) Every effort will be made to absorb expatriate officers serving in permanent appointments by their voluntary transfer to suitable posts elsewhere in the Colonial Service.

(b) Expatriate officers serving in permanent appointments whom it is not possible to absorb elsewhere or who do not wish to accept transfer will be permitted to retire with suitable compensation for loss of office.

(c) Steps will be taken to secure the rights of non-expatriate officers to retiring benefits earned under the Pensions and Provident Fund Ordinances. Further consideration of the position of non-expatriate officers must necessarily await clarification of the constitutional arrangements which would replace the British administration on its withdrawal.

(d) British police whose normal retiring benefits are provided under the Police Ordinance will be granted enhanced benefits on premature termination of service.

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E 8959

PALESTINE

29 SEP 1

Registry Number E8959/8092/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

11 d Oct
New York
2657
26 Sept
29

Disposal of British Officers

Refer to of 3163 (E8092/8092/31) for Markham.
Please arrange for text of announcement to be telegraphed and inform line of release suggests it might be convenient to refer with a confirmation of accuracy of reference to possibility of withdrawal

Last Paper.

8092
S.S. Davis

(Minutes.)

References.

Our statement has met ^{with} a curious degree of general incredulity: and even our officials at New York seem to be doubtful whether we will really leave!

S.S. Davis
Sept. 29

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

G.E.M./1/10

(Index.)

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper.

1102/1102/71 48

32008 F.O.P.

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End

E 8959
29 SEP 1947

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Cypher/OTF

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations)

No. 2657 D. 8.36 p.m. 28th September, 1947
26th September, 1947 R. 2.45 a.m. 27th September, 1947
Repeated to Washington (Saving)
8 8 8 8 8

IMPORTANT

SECRET

Your telegram No. 3163.

Following for Mathieson, Colonial Office from Martin.

Please arrange for text of announcement to be telegraphed here and inform me of time of release. It might be convenient to refer to it as confirmation of sincerity of Secretary of State's reference to possibility of withdrawal. Fantastic interpretation of his statement suggested by Horowitz of Jewish Agency was that His Majesty's Government wish to create artificial deadlock with a view to maintaining status quo in Palestine.

[Copies sent to Colonial Office]

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